

**Happy  
Infection Control  
Week!**

## IPAC Fast Fact # 1



REGIONAL INFECTION  
CONTROL NETWORKS

*Giving Health a Helping Hand*

# Hand Hygiene

### Did You Know?

- In Canada, only 30 to 40 percent of health care providers comply with best practice guidelines regarding when and how to clean their hands
- In Canada, it is estimated that 250,000 people—one out of every nine patients who are admitted to hospital every year pick up infections while being treated for something else
- Hand hygiene, whether performed using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water, remains the most effective way to prevent and control the spread of all infections
- The World Health Organization and the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee in Ontario recommend using an alcohol-based hand rub for routine hand cleaning when your hands are not visibly soiled
- Proper hand hygiene performed by formal and informal leaders in an organization has been shown to positively influence others in their performance of hand hygiene by up to 70%!

**Save Lives!**

**Just Clean Your Hands!**